

Application No. 10/031,798
Attorney Docket No. PG3681USW

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a blister pack comprising contacting a base sheet having a blister pocket containing a product therein with a cover sheet and applying laser energy from a laser to form a hermetically sealing join between said cover sheet and said blister pocket of said base sheet, wherein both the cover sheet and the base sheet comprise at least one layer of metal foil and said join comprises a metal-to-metal join between said metal foil layers.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the base sheet has a plurality of blister pockets therein and laser energy is applied to form a join between the cover sheet and each blister pocket of said base sheet.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the base sheet and cover sheet are elongate and the base sheet has a plurality of blister pockets spaced therealong.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein laser energy is applied to join each blister pocket of the elongate base sheet in a sequential fashion.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the laser energy derives from a laser source which is movable relative to the base and cover sheet to enable correct positioning of the join.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the laser energy derives from a fixed laser source and the base and cover sheet are movable to enable correct positioning of the join.
7. (Currently) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the laser energy is guidable by means of a guide mechanism to enable correct positioning of the join.

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8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said guide mechanism includes one or more movable mirrors.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the guide mechanism includes one or more galvanometer scanners.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the join has a zig-zag configuration.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the join has a multi-dot configuration.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the join is continuous.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the laser energy is supplied by a laser source having a maximum average power of from 10W to 200W, and a maximum peak power of from 1kW to 10kW.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the laser energy is applicable in continuous fashion.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the laser energy is applicable in pulsed fashion.

16. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the laser source has a pulse width of from 0.5 to 20 microseconds and a maximum pulse energy of from 10 to 100 Joules.

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17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~, wherein the join has a join width of from 5 μ m to 10mm, preferably from 10 μ m to 1mm, more preferably from 10 to 200 μ m, most preferably from 20 to 100 μ m.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~, wherein the base sheet and cover sheet comprise material selected from the group consisting of metal foil, an organic polymeric material and paper.

19. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the base sheet and cover sheet comprise different materials.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18 ~~either of claims 18 or 19~~, wherein the base sheet and/or the cover sheet comprises a laminate.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, additionally comprising applying laser energy to form one or more additional joins between each blister pocket.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein said one or more additional joins are concentric to the join.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 22~~, additionally comprising foldably interlocking the base sheet with the cover sheet to provide a plurality of join sites therebetween and applying laser energy to form plural joins at each said site.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 23~~, additionally comprising applying laser energy to form score lines on the or each cover sheet and/or base sheet.

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25. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein said score lines facilitate access to each blister pocket.

26. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein the score lines facilitate separation of an individual blister pocket from the blister pack.

27. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein the score lines facilitate visual and/or electronic identification of said blister pack and/or blister pocket.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1~~any of claims 1 to 27~~, additionally comprising applying laser energy to cut the blister pack.

29. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 28, comprising cutting the blister pack to a specifiable shape.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28~~either of claims 28 or 29~~, comprising cutting the blister pack to a specifiable size.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28~~any of claims 28 to 30~~, comprising cutting the blister pack to provide sprocket holes therein.

32. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 31, comprising cutting semi-circular incisions in the blister pack depressible to form sprocket holes therein.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1~~any of claims 1 to 32~~, wherein the method is controllable by a computer.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein said product is an electronic component.

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35. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein said electronic component is selected from the group consisting of semi-conductor, integrated circuit chip, fuse and battery.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product is a food.

37. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein said food is selected from the group consisting of meat, mycoprotein, milk, cheese, flour, pasta, rice, oil, sugar, confectionery, vegetable, herbal, snack, convenience and fruit foodstuffs.

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~ wherein the product comprises a beverage.

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39. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 38, wherein said beverage is selected from the group consisting of water, milk, coffee, cocoa, tea, fruit, carbonated and alcoholic drinks.

40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~ wherein the product comprises a toiletry.

41. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 40, wherein said toiletry is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, soap, mouthwash, shampoo, skin and face cream.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a cleanser.

43. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 42, wherein said cleanser is selected from the group consisting of soap, detergent, enzymic preparation and organic solvent.

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44. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a disinfectant.

45. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 44, wherein said disinfectant is selected from the group consisting of sterilant, antiseptic and bleach.

46. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a light-sensitive material.

47. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein said light-sensitive material comprises a photographic film.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a marking material.

49. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 48, wherein said marking material is selected from the group consisting of toner, ink, dye, pigment, acid and alkali.

50. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a covering material.

51. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 50, wherein said covering material is selected from the group consisting of paint, pigment, dye, corrosion inhibitor, electrical conductor, electrical insulator and static inhibitor.

52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a toy.

53. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 52, wherein said toy is selected from the group consisting of model, figure, doll, animal, jig-saw and game.

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54. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises haberdashery.

55. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein said haberdashery is selected from the group consisting of button, bobbin, needle, pin, eye, hook and fastener.

56. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a tool.

57. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 56, wherein said tool comprises a domestic tool.

58. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 57, wherein said domestic tool is selected from the group consisting of can opener, bottle opener, ring-pull opener, scissors, knife, fork and spoon.

59. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 56, wherein said tool comprises a home maintenance tool.

60. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 59, wherein said home maintenance tool is selected from the group consisting of nail, screw, pin, wire, screwdriver, knife, brush, spanner, ruler and marker.

61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises stationery.

62. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 61, wherein said stationery is selected from the group consisting of pencil, pen, ruler, crayon, eraser, marker, stencil, protractor, compass and paper.

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63. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product is an adhesive.

64. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 63, wherein said adhesive bonds materials selected from the group consisting of paper, plastic, wood, rubber, glass and metal.

65. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product is an agrochemical.

66. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 65, wherein said agrochemical is selected from the group consisting of herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, rodenticide, nematocide, acaricide and plant growth regulator.

67. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a plant seed.

68. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 67, wherein said seed is derived from plants selected from the group consisting of monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants.

69. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a contraceptive.

70. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 69, wherein said contraceptive is either a contraceptive device or a contraceptive drug.

71. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 70, wherein said contraceptive device is selected from the group consisting of condom, diaphragm, sponge and coil.

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72. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 70, wherein said contraceptive drug is selected from the group consisting of spermicide, estrogen, ethinyl estradiol, progesterone, levonorgestrel and norgestrel.

73. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a medical instrument.

74. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 73, wherein said medical instrument is selected from the group consisting of scalpel, thermometer and syringe.

75. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises laboratory equipment.

76. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 75, wherein said equipment is selected from the group consisting of dispenser tip, microbial filter, filter paper, aseptic container, petri-plate, vial, test tube, tissue-culture vessel and pipette.

77. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a catemenial product.

78. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 77, wherein said catemenial product comprises a tampon.

79. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 33~~, wherein the product comprises a medicament.

80. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 79, wherein said medicament is in dry powder, tablet, liquid, paste, cream or capsular form.

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81. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 79~~either of claims 79 or 80~~, wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, ipratropium bromide, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

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82. (Previously Amended) Blister pack formable by the method of claim 1~~any of claims 1 to 81~~.
